

MEETING #458

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 2016

- PRESENT: Mayor: Barry Manuel
 Deputy Mayor: Darren Finn
 Councillors: Amy Coady-Davis, Bruce Moores,
 Tom Pinsent
 Staff: M. Pinsent, Town Manager\Clerk
 J. Saunders, Director of Engineering & Works
 K. Antle, Director of Parks & Recreation
- ABSENT: Staff: B. Griffin, Director of Finance

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #457 of Tuesday, January 26th, 2016.

Motion
 Finn\Moores

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #457 of Tuesday, January 26th, 2016 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Pinsent presented the disbursement report in the amount of \$406,898.98.

Motion

Pinsent\Moores

Be it resolved that the disbursement report in the amount of \$406,898.98 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works and Planning

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Finn.

Snow Clearing

The Committee discussed snow clearing during the storm on January 29th and 30th. This was a significant snowfall and high winds made conditions much worse.

The Town is divided into nine (9) zones plus small dead end streets and parking lots. Sidewalks are addressed when streets are cleared. As a priority, main arteries and school zones would be cleared first. We have to keep in mind that someone has to be first and others have to be at the end of the route. Staff does reverse routes when possible. Break down of equipment will cause additional delays in getting to some areas and that is unavoidable. During normal snowfalls, streets are mainly passable and vehicles can usually get to main roads that would be cleared. In stormy conditions where roads are blocked, residents are reminded that our fire and emergency services are available to assist with emergencies. Our staff are also in contact with hospital staff and if our services are required to assist an ambulance, then escort will be provided.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to monitor snow clearing operations and adjust as necessary. Snow clearing and removal can be a frustrating experience for residents as well as our staff. We ask residents to be patient and contact our after-hours phone number at 489-0430 and the concerns will be passed to the Supervisor on-call.

Speed Notification Signs

The Committee discussed the preliminary information that has been downloaded from the signs. The information includes number of vehicles, speed, dates, times, etc... The information can be used to develop tables, charts and

graphs that provide useful information at a glance. One (1) noticeable positive result is the number of vehicles speeding has been reduced by up to fifty percent (50%).

The Committee recommends that staff continue to monitor the information and develop reports as required. The Committee also recommends moving them periodically and consider the purchase of other signs as part of the budget process.

LED Information Sign – Adjacent to Dominion

The Committee discussed a proposal for a LED information sign to be located on Town owned property on Cromer Avenue adjacent to the Dominion Store.

The Committee recommends acceptance of \$500\month lease rate for land to erect the LED sign. The other conditions will be as per the Town's sign regulations.

Station Road – Name Change

The Committee had a request to change Station Road to Meaney Road in memory of Father Meaney. There was one (1) registered phone call and one (1) formal letter objecting the suggested name change.

The Committee recommends that Station Road not be renamed Meaney Road.

Rezoning Main Street West Residential Land from RS-2 to RS-1

The notice to rezone Main Street West land from RS-2 to RS-1 was recently advertised and one (1) letter was received from a resident. The letter was not objecting to the zoning change but refers to the type of housing to be permitted.

The Committee is recommending no change in the rezoning document and it be presented at the next Committee meeting for recommendation to adopt.

Town Funded Capital

The Committee reviewed and discussed the list of Engineering and Works Town Funded Capital requests and recommends it be presented at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Street Name Request – Corduroy Developers

Another street will be constructed in the Corduroy Developers subdivision this season and will need to be assigned a name.

The Committee recommends that the names as selected recently be used and the top name “Dwyer” be the street name. The remaining names are as follows:-

Molloy
Cohen
Chow
Lindahl
Pitcher

When these names are exhausted, another list will be generated from submissions on file.

Street Name Request – Tait

The Committee discussed a street name request from the Tait family. They have asked the Tait name be used in the proposed residential development on the family land at 43 Grenfell Heights.

The Committee recommends the present list as selected be used and therefore this request be denied. The correspondence will be placed on file to be considered when the next list is selected.

Correspondence – Greg Thompson

The Committee reviewed correspondence concerning his request to develop a residential cul-de-sac behind his property on Goodyear Avenue. It would extend between Cranley Place and Dunn Place.

The Committee recommends that the previous decision made last year be upheld and the request be denied.

Land Request – Related Holdings - 8 and 10 Duggan Street

The Committee discussed a request from Related Holdings to purchase additional land at the rear of their properties at 8 and 10 Duggan Street.

The Committee recommends the request be approved. The amount of land to be sold will depend on the existing green belt which must be maintained. Staff will discuss the requirements with the applicant.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Finn\Coady-Davis

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Parks, Recreation and Special Events

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady-Davis.

Minor Soccer Association – Meeting with Executive

The Exploits Minor Soccer Association made a presentation to the Committee highlighting the support their Association would like from the Town. Their two (2) main requests were to see an increase in their Community Organization Grant and the need for a second soccer field as their program has grown to over three hundred (300) kids.

The Committee discussed their presentation and recommends the Director of Parks and Recreation look at the allocations of all our Community Organization Grants as well as work with the Engineering Department to look at the cost involved to reuse existing area on Centennial Field that could be turned into a second field.

Correspondence – Sparkling Blades Figure Skating Club

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Figure Skating Club requesting their year-end Ice Show be moved to April 24th, 2016 to accommodate a professional skater to be part of the Show.

The Committee recommends this be approved with all ice times and expenses to be paid for by the Figure Skating Club.

Winterlude Update

The Director of Parks and Recreation presented the Winterlude Brochure that will be delivered to all households during the week of February 1st-5th. This year's carnival takes place February 12th-15th with lots of activities for all ages. All citizens are urged to get out and get involved.

Mid Winter Bivver Update

The Director of Parks and Recreation gave an update on the Mid Winter Bivver which is scheduled for February 19th-20th. Registration is going really well with very few spots still available. Residents are urged to register online at www.midwinterbivver.com as soon as possible as tickets are expected to be sold out very soon.

Sutherland Drive\Goodyear Avenue Landscaping

The Committee discussed the plans to finish both the Sutherland Drive Splash Pad and Goodyear Avenue Baseball Complex.

The Committee recommends the Director of Parks and Recreation work with the Engineering Department to finalize a plan for parking and landscaping at both of these facilities.

Dog Park Correspondence

The Committee discussed correspondence from dog park users noting that they would like to get access outside the parks fencing to retrieve dog toys. The Town Manager\Clerk informed the Committee that this is land that the public are not permitted access to and that anytime access is needed, users are to contact the Parks and Recreation Department.

Ski-doo\Quad Trail Connection

The Committee discussed correspondence from residents in the Sullivan Street area requesting trail access to the track bed. An existing trail has been closed off due to the new housing development on Pardy Place.

The Committee recommends the Parks and Recreation Department apply for funding to cut a trail that will link the existing trail with the track bed.

Grant Funding to Community Organizations

The Committee discussed the current Town Grant Funding Policies available to user groups.

The Committee directed the Parks and Recreation Director to review all these grants to see if it is necessary to make any revisions.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady-Davis\Moores

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Deputy Mayor Finn.

Town Funded Capital

The Committee discussed the requested Town Funded Capital submitted by the Department Heads.

The Committee recommends the attached list totaling \$674,000. The budgeted amount was \$750,000. Three (3) projects are awaiting further information:

(1) Drapery for Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium	-	\$30,000
(2) Bunker Gear Washing Machine	-	\$22,000
(3) Park and Recreation Scheduling Software	-	\$15,000

Grand Falls-Windsor Day

The Committee recommends that July 18th, 2016 be declared as Grand Falls-Windsor Day and that the Salmon Festival week-end be held from July 14th-18th, 2016.

Brand Items Tender

The Committee reviewed the recent tenders for the 25th Anniversary brand items.

The Committee recommends that the brand items be purchased.

Exploits Regional Services Board Agreement

The Committee reviewed the new agreement between the four (4) municipalities being serviced by the Water Treatment Plant at Northern Arm Pond.

The old agreement included the waste disposal operation and needed to be revised. The new agreement refers to the “Exploits Regional Water Supply Committee”.

The Committee recommends that the revised agreement be approved for signatures.

Long Term Care

The Committee reviewed the “Long Term Care Needs Assessment” report as prepared for Central Health by Ernst & Young. The Committee has serious concerns with the report in the way the geography and demographics were presented.

The Committee recommends that Council meet with the CEO of Central Health and Minister Al Hawkins to discuss the request.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Finn\Moore

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Finance and Administration

The following report was presented by Councillor Pinsent.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week 4. Total labour was \$212,435. This was \$10,658 (5.3%) under budget.

The Committee recommends that staff continue to monitor labour costs.

Chemical Cost

The Committee reviewed the chemical cost for the Exploits Regional Services Board Water Treatment Plant. Total cost for the year ended December 31st, 2015 was \$206,602. A decrease of \$1,002 from the previous year.

Taxation Report

The Committee was advised that the invoices for the taxation year have been sent out. The Committee reviewed the taxation levy for 2015. Total taxes levied were \$14,691,000 compared to budget of \$14,746,000. It is anticipated that the difference will be made up through supplementary assessments due to construction during the year.

Power Consumption Summary

The Committee reviewed the power consumption summary for 2015. Total electrical costs were \$558,414. An increase of \$16,782 (3%) from the previous year.

The Committee recommends that staff monitor and look for ways to further reduce consumption.

EXCITE Building

The Committee reviewed the budget for the EXCITE Building and current occupancy.

The Committee recommends that space be made available for a School of Nursing at a rate of \$20 per square foot.

Statistics Canada

The Committee reviewed the inflation for 2015. Inflation for the year was .5%. As a result of this, there will be no cost of living adjustment for unionized workers as per the Collective Agreement.

Funding Requests

The Committee reviewed a request from the College of the North Atlantic Student Council to sponsor Winter Carnival activities.

The Committee recommends \$200 be approved for this.

The Committee reviewed a request from the Grand Falls-Windsor Minor Hockey Association for travel to Labrador for a Provincial Hockey Tournament.

The Committee recommends \$1,000 be approved for this.

The Committee reviewed a request from the Grand Falls-Windsor Cataracts Senior Hockey Club for funding to attend the Allan Cup Senior Hockey Championship.

The Committee recommends that a budget for the trip be attained for future discussion.

The Committee reviewed a request from the Grand Falls-Windsor Fire Department for a Curling Bonspiel in aid of Muscular Dystrophy.

The Committee recommends that \$150 be approved for this.

Defined Benefit Pension Plan

The Committee reviewed the Defined Benefit Pension Plan transaction summary for 2015. Beginning balance for the year was \$7,035,300. Ending balance for the year was \$7,900,818.

The Committee recommends that the Director of Finance discuss our current investment mix and fund selection with our pension consultants.

Grand Falls-Windsor Golf Club

The Committee reviewed the financial statements from the Grand Falls Golf Club. The Committee was satisfied with the outcome and agrees to an advancement of a \$25,000 grant.

The Committee recommends the Grand Falls Golf Club submit a budget for 2016 to ensure that debt obligations can be met.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Pinsent\Coady-Davis

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Exploits Regional Services Board

The following report was presented by Councillor Moores.

2015 Operating Cost and 2016 Budget

The Board reviewed the detailed costs for 2015. The total operating costs were \$761,721 compared to a budget of \$812,214. The 2016 budget was presented and totals \$805,840. Also discussed were the shared costs for each town including the payments or capital improvements for the Plant that have been completed in the last few years.

The chemical costs for the last four (4) years were discussed. Whereas the treatment process has changed, the Plant is consuming three (3) chemicals:- chlorine, alum and hydrated lime in a steady state. The prices of these chemicals have increased dramatically.

Capital Expenditure

The Board reviewed the list of capital expenditures that have been completed at the Plant from 2012-2014. There were six (6) projects that totaled \$3,059,236.39. These were funded by Provincial 70\30 Capital Programs through the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor. These Capital Works have made significant improvements in treated water quality.

Operating Reports

The Board reviewed an operating report outlining the work done at the Plant on a regular basis. Also reviewed was the Provincial Government “Drinking Water Quality Report”. The independent analysis of our water states that THM and HAA levels are well within the recommended guidelines recognized throughout the world. It ranks our water as 97 out of a possible 100 which is exceptional.

It was recommended that all towns have a vigorous flushing program this year to clean local transmission lines.

Northern Arm

It was tentatively agreed that Northern Arm’s population be included in Botwood’s population for billing. Botwood would recover the per capita amounts from Northern Arm. It was also tentatively agreed that Northern Arm would have representation on the Board. The Town of Botwood confirmed that there would be a Chlorine Booster Station installed on the Northern Arm water main as well as a Flow Meter.

Revised Agreement

A revised agreement that removes reference to the landfill operation as well as other minor changes was briefly discussed. Each town will review the agreement for the next meeting.

Other Business

Mayor Barry Manuel conducted an election for Chairperson of the Exploits Regional Services Board. The results of the election were Mayor Scott Sceviour was elected as Chair and Councillor Bruce Moores was elected as Vice Chair.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 28th, 2016 at the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Board Room.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Moores\Pinsent

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Finn congratulated Councillor Moores and Cecila Hickey on the successful launch of the Senior Wellness Hub. He also reported on areas that require street lights.

Councillor Pinsent congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department on a very successful Winterlude and Mid Winter Bivver. He also complimented the snow clearing operations over the past two (2) snow events.

Councillor Moores reviewed the Seniors Wellness Hub and its importance to seniors and caregivers. He also thanked all involved in this project.

Councillor Coady-Davis congratulated all the winners of the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards recently held and thanked the Chamber for holding this event.

Mayor Manuel advised that a meeting was held with Minister Hawkins and MHA Jerry Dean on Friday, February 19th regarding the Trans Canada Highway intersection being unsafe. He also congratulated Melvin Hannan and Stacie

Woolridge on competing in the National Special Olympics being held in Corner Brook and encouraged everyone to cheer them on.

Motion

Moore\Coady-Davis

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 15th, 2016. This motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Barry Manuel
Mayor

M. Pinsent
Town Manager\Clerk